EXCURSION TO CHELTENHAM.

About a dozen members took part in the excursion to Cheltenham on Saturday, 8th October. The party, on leaving the station, passed through the Cemetery grounds, where several of the Black Sheoak, *Casuarina suberosa*, Otto and Dietr., were found to be infested with the mistletoe, *Loranthus celastroides*, Sieb., which is slowly but surely killing the trees. A fine cultivated specimen of the "Lilly-pilly," *Eugenia Smithii*, Poir., was seen in fruit. We also noticed how the South African irids, *Sparaxis tricolor*, Ker Gawl (Ixia, sp.), and *Homeria collina*, Vent. (Cape Tulip), had escaped from cultivation and were establishing themselves among the grass in the unused parts of the Cemetery. Several native plants were noticed in flower within the enclosure. As we wended our way through the Cheltenham Park, quite a large number of native plants were noted, and it was remarked that this park would be a suitable place for the conservation of the native flora of the district, more especially as the adjoining land is gradually being brought under cultivation, or being used for residential purposes. However, I understand the park is to be converted into golf links, which will probably put an end to the native plants. The coast tea-tree, *Leptospermum lævigatum*, F. v. M., and the small tea-tree, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, Sieb., were covered with white bloom, and at a distance gave one the idea that there had been a recent fall of snow. The Wedding-bush, *Ricinocarpus pinifolius*, Desf., was met with in great profusion. The Blue Squill, *Chamæscilla corymbosa*, F. v. M., looked charming among the grass and undergrowth. The white-flowered form was not noticed. Of the Leguminosæ, which is well represented in this district, *Aotus villosa*, Sm., Hairy Aotus; *Pultenæa paleacea*, Willd., Chaffy Bush Pea; *Daviesia ulicina*, Sm., Gorse Bitter Pea; *Dillwynia cinerascens*, R. Br., Grey Parrot Pea; *Acacia oxycedrus*, Sieb., Spike Acacia, might specially be mentioned. Three members of the rice-flower, Pimelea, were noted in flower—*P. humilis*, R. Br., *P. phyllicoides*, Meiss., and *P. octophylla*, R. Br. Several representatives of the Orchidaceæ were met with, including *Caladenia Patersoni*, R. Br., Spider Orchid; *C. carnea*, R. Br., Pink Fingers; *Thelymitra antennifera*, Hook f.; *Lyperanthus nigricans*, R. Br.; *Glossodia major*, R. Br.; and *Prasophyllum elatum*, R. Br. In all, fully sixty species were noted in flower or fruit. Of these the following might be mentioned:—*Hakea pugioniformis*, Cav.; *Burchardia umbellata*, R. Br., Milkmaids; *Arthropodium strictum*, R. Br.; and *Comesperma volubile*, Lab., Love Creeper. A few patches of the Wild Parsnip, *Didiscus pilosus*, Benth., were also observed. This plant is generally credited with poisonous properties, but investigations have not

yet led to a decisive conclusion. Several introduced plants were noted, including the Cape-weed, *Cryptostemma calendulaceum*, R. Br. These were found where the ground had been cultivated or disturbed and then neglected; but wherever it was left in the natural state no alien flora were noticed. On reaching the top of a small hill a fine view of the surrounding country was obtained, and expressions of regret were made that this splendid collecting-ground, so close to Melbourne, and which contains so much of our native flora, was gradually being alienated, and that nature-students will, before long, have to go further afield. After an enjoyable afternoon, the party left Cheltenham by the 5.30 p.m. train *en route* for their respective homes.—J. R. Tovey.

The Late J. R. Y. Goldstein.—Though not a member in recent years, the late Lieut.-Colonel Goldstein, whose death took place on 22nd September, was one of the original members of the Club, and served on the first committee. He acted as one of the vice-presidents during the next two years. However, a military spirit overcame the scientific tendency, and of late years he had not taken much interest in natural history. He gave several addresses on elementary biology at the earlier meetings, and was an expert microscopist, for a time acting as hon. secretary of the former Microscopical Society.

Australian Bees.—A short article in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* for October, 1910, by T. D. A. Cockerell, of the University of Colorado, entitled "Descriptions and Records of Bees," contains descriptions of ten new species of bees, eight of which are from Queensland, collected by Dr. Turner, of Brisbane, at various ports up the coast, and forwarded to the British Museum. Another species, for which a new genus is founded, is named *Euryglossidia rectangulata*, and bears the record "Hab., Victoria (*C.F.*, Feb., 1901; Turner Collection)."

The Citrus Mealy Bug.—*The Pomona* (California) *College Journal of Entomology* for September, 1910, gives the results of a number of experiments made with the view of discovering a cheap and effective remedy for the mealy bug on citrus trees. The best remedy was found to be a carbolic acid emulsion made by dissolving 40 lbs. of whale-oil soap (light-coloured) in 40 gallons of hot water, and then adding 5 lbs. of crude carbolic acid, bringing the whole to the boil for a few minutes to ensure thorough mixing. This stock solution is used for spraying at the rate of one part to twenty of water. The resultant spray has many points to recommend it, and has been found effectual against insects which are protected by a woolly, cottony, or waxy covering.